

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 1281

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PP
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION MOVES NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE

REF: PORT MORESBY 1218

1. SUMMARY. AT LEAST PARTIALLY DUE TO GOADING BY PM
SOMARE, OPPOSITION ON AUGUST 10 TABLED MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE
WHICH CHARGES GOVERNMENT CAN NO LONGER GOVERN EFFECTIVELY
AND WHICH OFFERS IAMBAKEY OKUK AS NEXT PRIME MINISTER.
VOTE WILL TAKE PLACE LATE NEXT WEEK. OUTCOME WILL DEPEND
UPON CHAN'S PEOPLE'S PROGRESS PARTY (PPP) WITH WHICH SOMARE
WORKING OUT COMPROMISE ON LEADERSHIP CODE AND WHICH, WE
BELIEVE, WILL REMAIN WITH PANGU TO KEEP GOVERNMENT IN
POWER. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING HEATED PARLIAMENTARY SESSION MORNING AUGUST 10,
PM SOMARE, AFTER ALTERNATELY ATTACKING AND CHIDING
OPPOSITION LEADER OKUK, SAID, "I SUGGEST THE OPPOSITION
LEADER BRING ON HIS VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE BEFORE HE
LOSES ANY MORE OF HIS MEMBERS." THUS CHALLENGED,
OPPOSITION GAVE NOTICE OF MOTION JUST PRIOR TO COB THAT
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AFTERNOON.

3. MOTION CHARGES GOVERNMENT CAN NO LONGER GOVERN
EFFECTIVELY BECAUSE: A) COALITION DIVIDED OVER LEADERSHIP
CODE; B) IT INCAPABLE OF HANDLING IRIAN JAYA BORDER
SITUATION AND TORRES STRAIT ISSUE; C) ITS LEADERSHIP CODE
IS DESIGNED TO COVER UP CORRUPTION AND MALPRACTISE IN

GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE; D) IT HAS FAILED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND EFFICIENT PUBLIC SERVICES IN ALL REGIONS; AND E) IT HAS LOST THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE. MOTION NOMINATES OKUK AS NEXT PM. TABLED MOTION MUST SIT FOR A WEEK. THUS, IT SCHEDULED TO COME UP AUGUST 17 OR 18, THE DAY LEADERSHIP CODE ALSO SCHEDULED TO BE RAISED.

4. EARLIER IN WEEK OPPOSITION LEADERS WERE SAYING NO MOTION WAS NEEDED AS GOVERNMENT WAS FALLING OF ITS OWN WEIGHT. SOMARE MIGHT WELL HAVE GOADED OKUK INTO MOVE.

5. SOMARE/PANGU COUNTERATTACK, WHICH FOLLOWED HIS JULY 31 RETURN FROM SINGAPORE, HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE, DRAWING STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FROM THROUGHOUT COUNTRY DESIGNED TO INSTILL FEAR OF CONSEQUENCES IF SOMARE DEFEATED. SURPRISINGLY, MICHAEL PONDROS, SHADOW MINISTER FOR FINANCE, ANNOUNCED IN PARLIAMENT AUGUST 7 THAT ALTHOUGH HE WOULD REMAIN IN OPPOSITION, HE WOULD NOT VOTE TO BRING DOWN GOVERNMENT. OBVIOUSLY, SOMARE WORKING ALL ANGLES. ON NBC EVENING AUGUST 10 HE ADMITTED DIFFERENCES WITH COALITION PARTNER PPP OVER LEADERSHIP CODE, WHICH BEING LEFT AS "MATTER OF CONSCIENCE," BUT REITERATED CONVICTION THAT PPP WILL CONTINUE AS PANGU COALITION PARTNER IN GOVERNMENT. PM MEETING TODAY WITH PANGU BACKBENCHERS, ONE OF WHOM TELLS US DEALS BEING WORKED OUT INCLUDE SUBSEQUENT CREATION OF THREE OR FOUR CONFIDENTIAL

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ADDITIONAL MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS. WOULD NOT SURPRISE US IF FORMER OPPOSITION LEADER AND FORMER UNITED PARTY LEADER SIR TEI ABAL WERE TO CROSS THE FLOOR WITH SOME FOLLOWERS TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT.

6. PANGU AND PPP PRESENTLY WORKING ON COMPROMISES WITH RESPECT TO LEADERSHIP CODE GAZETTED IN JULY. WHICHEVER SIDE PPP VOTES WITH WILL WIN BY DECISIVE VOTE. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE PPP WILL REMAIN WITH PANGU AND SOMARE. OLMSTED

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